

Ø BEAT

COLO. SPRINGS,
COLORADO

MAY 1974



THINGS ARE LOOKING UP!

Frankly, I'm optimistic about the future of ham radio, and these are some of the signs I've been seeing (and hearing) lately. See if you don't agree.

We have a new chairman at the FCC and already things are happening - rumor has it that the "220" Docket decision has been shelved for at least another year, - and look at the way the ARRL has recognized that FM and repeaters are here to stay and is again working with the FCC, as in this report:

"ARRL is now filing petitions for changes in rule making in the matter of modifying amateur rules for crossband operations of repeaters, and on remote base operations. It is expected that the FCC will act favorably on these petitions which resulted from discussions between the League and FCC."

Did you know that the ARRL even

(Continued on Page 6)

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Russ Ruggieri WBØGKF

There has been a change in the WAØVTV repeater. Recently a tone decoder has been added to it that will keep weak signals from bringing up the transmitter. This has been done to avoid interference from Boulder and from other signals that are not strong enough to be readable.

In its normal use the tone decoder will not effect most local stations. Stations with weak signals desiring entry into the repeater can override the decoder by transmitting a 1447 Hz tone burst at the beginning of the transmission. Also, any two buttons in the third row of a standard touch tone pad or whistling up through this tone will work the decoder. The installation of the decoder was performed by Larry Rice, WBØKDN.

(Continued on Page 3)

ZERO BEAT

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The PPRAA meets at 7:30 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Security Savings & Loan Building, East Platte at Union Boulevard.

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APRIL MINUTES - Bob Tate, WBØJTZ

The April meeting of PPRAA was held on April 10, 1974 at the Security Savings and Loan Building, Union at Platte.....Meeting as called to order by the President, Russ Ruggieri, WBØGKF at 7:45 PM.....Visitors were asked to introduce themselves.....

Treasurers report was given by Dean Jaynes, WAØPJH. Accepted as read.....Minutes of the March meeting, as published in April ZERO BEAT, were accepted.....

Jim DonCarlos, WØITU gave an additional report on mailing ZERO BEAT. Out-of-town copies will be mailed Third Class. Investigation is still under way as to investment cost versus mailing class for copies mailed within the city.....Chuck Myers, WAØZCS

announced that the next CCARC meeting would be held at Fort Collins on April 20, 1974. Announcement was again made concerning free QSL cards for novice operators.....Dean Jaynes gave notice that it was becoming more difficult to maintain a good balance in the treasury due to rising costs in producing ZERO BEAT and for postal costs. He suggested an increase in costs to advertisers and an increase in dues as possible sources of increasing revenues.....President Russ Ruggieri picked up the discussion of possible approaches to increasing club revenues. Suggestions were solicited from the floor. The membership, as polled, appeared to be amenable

(Continued on Page 5)

REPEATER CHANGES FREQUENCY

A rather historic event took place in Boulder on March 7, 1974 when the Rocky Mountain VHF Society voted to move the frequency of their repeater on Lee Hill from the present 146.16/76 to a new frequency pair, 146.28/88 Mhz. This pair of frequencies was generously given up by the Denver Radio League in the interest of harmony within the ranks of amateur radio.

After five years of operation by the RMVHFS on 16/76, it was a difficult decision. Yet with a machine on Sherman Hill just over the state line in Wyoming and another one on Cheyenne Mountain near Colorado Springs, the constant overlap of coverage was becoming a serious matter. So every amateur, whether he uses VHF repeaters or not, owes a great vote of thanks to RMVHFS for the switch. When one group makes a change so drastic and expensive so that others may enjoy the use of amateur radio to a greater extent, a "thank you" is hardly sufficient. Yet the Federal Communications Commission should be pleased to know that the agreement was worked out and that amateurs can be trusted to solve their own problems without so much direct regulation from the commission.

The above article was published in the March 17th issue of the DENVER POST. It would seem that all this effort outlined above was in vain, as the offer of the 28/88 pair, made at the CCARC Repeater Advisory Committee meeting held February 24th has been withdrawn by Slats Council, KØATZ, the trustee of the present 28/88 Denver Radio League Repeater. At this writing, the final outcome of the matter is unknown. It is hoped that the move to 28/88 will still be possible.

BOULDER QSP

PRESIDENT'S NEWS - Continued

Field Day preparations are coming along fairly smoothly. It would be appreciated if those members who offered assistance in areas of equipment, extension cords, tents and those who just want to come out and operate, give their name and telephone number to either Mike Stansberry, WBØHCK or myself.

At the May meeting one of our more technically versed members will give a short presentation on transmission lines. Mike, WA6MMP will give the presentation and remove some of the mystery concerning this topic. See you at the meeting.

COLORADO YL'S PLAN LUNCHEON

Rosemary Lewis, WAØMNL

Colorado YL's are busy with preparations for the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention to be held at the Ramada Inn in Pueblo.

The YL's will sponsor the ladies luncheon on Saturday, June 8th, followed by a "surprise" treat as a program along with a unique "style show" presented by the Colorado Springs' YL's.

There will be table favors, gifts and prizes and a tour or two available. The convention committee and Colorado YL's are striving to make this convention a high light for the ladies attending.

For more information, contact the convention committee or any Colorado YL.

When finally you can afford to lose a ball, you can't hit it that far.

FROM HERE AND THERE

Dr. Morris Levinson, WBØBSV

According to the February issue of CQ Magazine, the editor, Richard A. Ross, K2GMA states that Prose Walker, Chief of the Amateur and CB Division, gave a hint of re-vamping in amateur licensing. This hint was mentioned at an address at the SAROC Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 4th.

The editorial goes on to state that in the future mail order licensing will be under more stringent supervision. This may take the form of examinations by Committee or examination by an authorized Club. Ross also says that there may be "as many as seven different amateur licenses before many years go by."

The CQ editor listed the following possible classes: (1) Amateur Extra - CW 20 w.p.m. code. Extra theory. All Amateur privileges. (2) Amateur Extra Phone - 10 w.p.m. code. Extra theory. All amateur phone privileges. General and Advanced CW privileges. (3) Advanced - 10 w.p.m. code. Advanced theory. All current advanced class privileges. (4) General-Conditional - 10 w.p.m. code. General theory. All current General Class privileges. (5) Technician - 5 w.p.m. General theory. All present Technician privileges, CW on the Novice bands and phone privileges on part of the 10 meter band. (6) Novice - 5 w.p.m. code. Novice theory. Limited phone privileges above 220 MHz.

The March-April HAM NEWS which is printed in Woodward, Oklahoma, states that the FCC has revealed a new type of code test is being prepared for amateur radio examinations. The Code section of the amateur testing will no longer require a certain number of words to be copied in writing perfectly.

The proposed system depends upon

an easily scored multiple choice question form which requires an understanding of the material copied in the test. You must copy the code - either in writing or in your head - then answer questions about the content of the message. It is expected to greatly simplify the Code test scoring.

GRID LEAK

WAØSNO REPEATER NEWS

Bob Shriner WAØUZO

Well, same old story - no license yet and still cannot get an answer out of them. Oh well, all good things take time.

Work is commencing on the new 28/88 repeater. WBØGIM with supervision of WØDWI built an excellent chassis for it. I think they both were bosses and couldn't find any indians, but they got it done. Larry, WBØECV and Steve, WBØECU got the plywood shelves mounted and it's really looking good.

We will try to get up the tower this month and fix the 500 foot antenna, and if it can't be fixed we will replace it. After sev-

(Continued on Page 7)



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LETTER FROM OVERSEAS

Recently the editor received the following letter from Harl Porter, K7CAN, PPRAA member:

"Greetings from Riyadh Saudi Arabia. What do you do with a call like HZLAB? There are less than 20 Hams here in Saudi Arabia and all but two are Royal Family. We have one of them (the United States Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia and ARAMCO has the other.

Last weekend, which is on Fridays over here, I was invited to see and use HZLTA. Guess HZL calls are kind of rare, as I called "CQ, this is HZLTA", and about 50 people came back to me.

The call HZLAB belongs to our headquarters at Dhahran, and I am assigned to Riyadh which is about 200 miles to the south. I am trying to get another call. We have a Collins S-line station complete with a three band beam atop our water tower. It is used as a MARS station, AJ4RI, right now for phone patches on 14.408.

The enclosed QSL card is for a conversation piece. If I get a ham station here in Riyadh I may work Colorado Springs and be able to send you a real one. I do plan on operating HZLAB when up in Dhahran. I would appreciate having ZERO BEAT sent to me at the following address: Major Harl Porter, Hq USAFS (Rijadh), APO New York 09616."

FCC FEE

If you are looking forward to license renewal time, be aware that the FCC has raised most amateur fees by \$1.00; thus making renewal \$10 as of May 1st. (CB fees raised to a minimum of \$25)

WESTPARK RADIOPS ◊

APRIL MINUTES - (Continued)

to an increase in dues. Several amounts of increase were recorded to be taken under advisement at the next Board of Directors meeting. An announcement of dues increase, coupled with an increase to advertisers will be forthcoming.....Mike Stansberry, WBØHCK gave a report on field day planning progress. All necessary coax has been acquired and work on cabling and antennas is progressing. There has been no satisfactory results concerning purchase of surplus military wire for power cables as noted in the last issue of ZERO BEAT. However, four members have volunteered use of their power cables. This appears to be sufficient. However, if this falls short of requirements the membership will again be polled.....Coffee break at 8:25 PM.....Meeting reconvened at 8:55 PM.....Drawing was held for door prizes.....Bob Shriner, WAØUZO from the Pueblo Ham Club gave a slide and oral presentation on the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention to be held in Pueblo on June 7, 8 & 9th. This was an extremely informative and interesting presentation..... An "Old Times" night was then presented. Frank Craw, WØHWH, Oak Stockton, KØROL, Jim DonCarlos, WØITU, and Leroy Smith, WBØLTV presented some very interesting and nostalgic stories of early years in radio concerning both equipment and personal experiences.....Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

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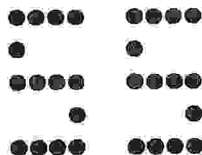
NEW ADVERTISER

ZERO BEAT welcomes this month a new advertiser, L. E. C. Electronics in Pueblo West, Colorado. Linnea E. Carnes, WBØLUC is the owner and Kip R. Carnes, WBØKWV is the manager of the electronics company. The store has been in existence since July, 1973, being located presently in their home at 553 Camino de los Ranchos, Pueblo West, Colorado, but the Carnes have hopes of moving into a regular store by the end of this year.

Presently the store is handling only VHF and UHF equipment. The following lines of equipment are handled:

Transceivers: ICOM, Standard and Wilson
 Amplifiers: KLM
 Antennas: Cush Craft, Antenna Specialist
 Towers: Universal Free Standing Aluminum Towers
 Crystals: Stock all common crystals for ICOM equipment.

When driving in the vicinity of Pueblo West, be sure to stop in at L. E. C. Electronics to meet Linnea and Kip and look over their fine lines of UHF and VHF equipment.

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GEORGE WØGCH

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP - (Cont.)

has a new office in Washington, D.C. with a new phone? (202-296-9107) Did you know that it is possible that we may have a delay in the newly announced rise in licensing fees? It's a result of a court case on the part of the National Cable Television Association taking the issue to the United States Supreme Court. Things are indeed looking up!

CCRC CIRCLE

FCC BOSS

Richard Wiley has been named to succeed Dean Burch as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, to become effective upon the formal resignation of Burch. Wiley, as you may have read, has exhibited an interest in amateur radio in recent proceedings at Washington.

WESTPARK RADIOPS

REPEATERS

As of March 8th, the repeater license score stood at 636 granted, 236 pending. The ARRL has filed petition that requests permission to cross-band repeaters; "repeater linking" will be requested.

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WORM FREQUENCY METER

Maynard Briggs W3HWZ

There are strange things that happen in nature that we cannot comprehend. I have debated writing up this occurrence, as you fellows might think I was stretching the truth, but anyway, here goes!

Last summer, on a beautiful day, I decided to go fishing. So I took myself out to a far corner of my lot to dig some worms - earth worms - or angle worms as I call them. While digging, I ran across a whopper. He was about 10 inches long, nice and pink and round. He was so big and beautiful that I decided to save him for a special large fish so I put him in my pocket, rather than the bait can. Fishing was poor, and I really forgot about the big worm.

That evening, while working on some new UHF equipment, I happened to put my hand in my pocket, and pulled out the worm. Not knowing what to do with him at that time, I laid him on the table along side the UHF amplifier, where he seemed quite content. So I went ahead with my work and put power on the amplifier. The next thing I saw was that worm stretching himself out, stop quickly and both ends lit up like neon bulbs! With power off he would go out, power on he lit up. I thought there was something familiar about his length, so I measured him, and found he was exactly a half wave length long! And I do mean exact. I raised the frequency to the amplifier, the worm shortened up, lit up, and again was an exact half wave. By golly, I had built an accurate Worm Frequency Meter! So I built an accurate frequency scale, put the worm on it, and was in business. Talk about exact - one day I was checking against WWV

and that worm caught them off frequency!

Well, all good things must come to an end. While working on the rig one day, with my worm checking frequency, the amplifier went into parasitic oscillation. The poor worm tried to measure all the spurious frequencies, tied himself into a knot and choked to death.

There are strange things in nature that we cannot comprehend!

AUTO-CALL


WAØSNO REPEATER NEWS - (Cont.)

eral trips to the repeater site we have definitely determined, (I think), that the top connection on the feed line or the antenna has a problem in it. So all we can do now is climb up and find out what is wrong.

We have most of the stuff collected for the new duplexer and all we have to do is get Ed, WBØEYD busy putting it together.

We are a little short yet on contributions to the repeater fund. If you haven't made your contribution yet, there is a certain Chiropractor here in town who will be glad to see you. His initials are Morris Levinson, Club Treasurer.

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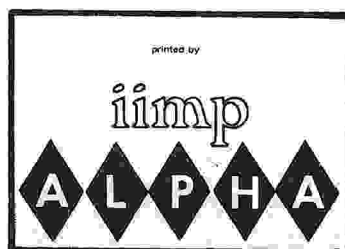
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